

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 EA-06 SCCT-01 /095 W

----- 090837

R 100722Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2555

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

CONFIDENTIAL ABU DHABI 0296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TC, US

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS THAT USG INVESTIGATING UAE OIL FIELD  
SECURITY

1. LOCAL NON-GOVERNMENT, SMALL-CIRCULATION DAILY,  
AL-WATHBAH, CARRIED STORY FEBRUARY 8 TO EFFECT THAT  
US EMBASSY ABU DHABI TRYING GET DETAILED INFORMATION,  
INCLUDING DRAWINGS AND FIGURES, ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS  
IN LOCAL OIL FIELDS. PAPER STATES THAT CONFIDENTIAL  
REPORT FROM JAPANESE OIL COMPANY (PRESUMABLY ABU DHABI  
OIL COMPANY - ADOC) TO ITS HOME OFFICE NOTES THAT US EMBASSY  
EMPLOYEE APPROACHED ADOC OFFICIAL SEEKING INFO  
ON "MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS" IN THEIR OIL FIELDS INCLUDING  
WHETHER EXPLOSIVES WERE PLACED TO DESTROY FIELDS IF AND  
WHEN NECESSARY. ALLEGED ADOC REPORT ALSO NOTES SAME  
EMBASSY EMPLOYEE PUTTING SAME INQUIRIES TO OTHER OIL  
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COMPANIES. AL-WATHBAH GOES ON TO NOTE THAT "OBSERVERS"

BELIEVE OIL COMPANIES HAVE BECOME SCARED OF US INTERVENTION AND HAVE THEREFORE STARTED TAKING PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING PLACEMENT OF EXPLOSIVES.

2. LATER FEBRUARY 8 EMBASSY RECEIVED CALLS FROM BOTH REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN BAHRAIN AND LOCAL AP STRINGER ASKING FOR COMMENT ON STORY. WE REPLIED IN NAME "EMBASSY SPOKESMAN" THAT THERE ABOSLUTELY NO BASIS IN FACT TO ANY ASPECT OF STORY.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE STORY SUFFICIENTLY FAR OUT THAT IT UNLIKELY HAVE MAJOR IMPACT, AT LEAST LOCALLY. WHEN AMBASSADOR MENTIONED IT TO MIN PETROLEUM OTAIBA AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 8, LATTER HAD NOT EVEN HEARD OF IT. OTAIBA'S REACTION, MOREOVER, CLEARLY ONE OF IRRITATION WITH NEWSPAPER, WHICH NOTED FOR IRRESPONSIBILITY, RATHER THAN ONE OF GIVING ANY CREDENCE TO SUBSTANCE OF STORY. AMBASSADOR, NEVERTHELESS, PLANS RAISE MATTER IN LOW KEY FASHION WITH MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY AND WE WILL HARDLY SHED TEAR IF GOVERNMENT DECIDES CRACK DOWN ON AL-WATHBAH AS RESULT.

4. FURTHER COMMENT: STORY IS UNUSUAL IN DETAIL OF ALLEGED MACHINATIONS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ENTITY AGAINST ARAB OIL INTERESTS. POSSIBLY, IT IS JUST PRODUCT OF PARTICULARLY FERTILE IMAGINATION. BUT DCM HAS IN PAST TWO MONTHS, SINCE RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE, MADE SERIES OF CALLS ON ALL OIL COMPANIES IN TOWN. AND IT MOREOVER TRUE THAT CALL ON ADOC WAS FIRST BY EMBOFF IN LONG TIME ON THIS SMALL (NO MORE THAN 20,000 BPD) AND TROUBLED (PRODUCTION COSTS ARE \$9 P/B) COMPANY. HOWEVER, SECURITY QUESTIONS, OR EVEN INFERENCE TO THIS SUBJECT, NEVER RAISED DURING THESE CALLS - THEY DEALT WITH USUAL TOPICS OF PRODUCTION LEVELS, PRICES, COMPANY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETC.

STERNER

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